About the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB)

The aim of the MKC Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) is to provide a digest of news and publications focusing on key subjects and themes related to the work of IMO. Each CAB issue presents headlines from the previous month. For copyright reasons, the Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) contains brief excerpts only. Links to the complete articles or abstracts on publishers’ sites are included, although access may require payment or subscription.

The MKC Current Awareness Bulletin is disseminated monthly and issues from the current and the past years are free to download from this page.

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**IMO NEWS & EVENTS**

**WHAT’S NEW**

Maintenance of international peace and security – United Nations Security Council (UNSC), 9525th meeting.

‘Attacks against international shipping in the Red Sea area are not acceptable’- IMO Chief.

On 3 January, The UN Security Council held its first open meeting on the continuing attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, which are becoming an increasing threat to global trade and the stability of the entire region as the intense fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza continues. Full UNSC Meeting 📺

Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, IMO, briefed the UNSC on the continuing attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea and the stability of the region amid the Israel/Palestine crisis. Full statement 📹

Statement on adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024) on Red Sea

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said:

"I welcome and support the United Nations Security Council's resolution affirming the exercise of navigational rights and freedom by merchant vessels, in accordance with international law, must be respected.

The entire world depends on international shipping. Seafarers, ships and cargoes should not be the subject of attacks. We must all work together to ensure safety of seafarers, freedom of navigation and stability of supply chains. And I join the calls for caution and restraint to avoid further escalation of the situation in the Red Sea and the broader region.

I wholeheartedly reiterate my strong support for the immediate release of the Galaxy Leader and its crew.

IMO will continue to enhance the safety and secure transit of vessels of all States through the Red Sea and will closely monitor the situation, in collaboration with Member States and partners from the industry."

The UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024) on 10 January 2024
MEETING SUMMARIES AND SCHEDULE  Programme of Meetings for 2024

Previous Meetings
Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC 10) 22-26 January 2024

Forthcoming Meetings
Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 10) 5-9 February 2024
Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 11) 19-23 February 2024
Joint ILO/IMO Tripartite Working Group (JTWG 2) 27-29 February 2024
UNITED NATIONS


Security Council strongly condemns Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping. UN News. 10 January 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145382. The UN Security Council on Wednesday passed a resolution condemning “in the strongest terms” the multiple attacks by Houthi rebels off the coast of Yemen which have disrupted global trade and raised fears of further spillover from the war in Gaza.

Adopting Resolution 2722 (2024) by Recorded Vote, Security Council Demands Houthis Immediately Stop Attacks on Merchant, Commercial Vessels in Red Sea. United Nations. 10 January 2024. Following naval interception by the United States and United Kingdom of a barrage of missiles and drones fired from Houthi-controlled territory into the Red Sea on 9 January, the Security Council today adopted a resolution demanding that the Houthis immediately cease all attacks on merchant and commercial vessels.

Guterres warns against Red Sea escalation. UN News. 12 January 2024. The UN chief’s appeal came a day after the United States and the United Kingdom, with the support of other countries, launched airstrikes across multiple parts of Yemen in response.

Davos AM24 - Special Address by António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations. World Economic Forum. 17 January 2024. The Forum’s Centre for Regions, Trade and Geopolitics is helping stakeholders shape progress on global and regional priorities within the most complex geopolitical and geo-economic landscape in decades.

CASUALTIES

JAL jet collides with coast guard plane at Tokyo airport, 5 dead. Kyodo News (Japan). 2 January 2024. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2024/01/0b3984aaa764-urgent-japan-airlines-aircraft-catches-fire-at-haneda-airport-jal.html A Japan Airlines Co. passenger jet collided with a Japan Coast Guard plane at Tokyo’s Haneda airport Tuesday, causing both aircraft to catch fire and killing five coast guard members, while all 379 on board the commercial flight escaped without life-threatening injuries.


Whiddy Island disaster: After 45 years families might finally get answers and justice. Eoin English. Irish Examiner. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/spotlight/arid-41303332.html The son of a victim of the Whiddy Island disaster says he is prepared “to go to the well of his being time and time again” to get justice for the victims’ families.


Eagle Bulk confirms ‘projectile’ attack on Gibraltar Eagle with damage but no injuries.

Joe Brady. TradeWinds. 15 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/bulkers/eagle-bulk-confirms-projectile-attack-on-gibraltar-eagle-with-damage-but-no-injuries/2-1-1583621 Connecticut-based dry trade operator Eagle Bulk Shipping has confirmed damage to one of its bulkers from “an unidentified projectile” earlier today and that there were no injuries to crew.


M/V Genco Picardy US Central Command. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://twitter.com/CENTCOM/status/1747749078685872216?s=20 At approximately 8:30 pm (Sanaa time) Jan. 17, an assessed one-way attack UAS was launched from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen and struck M/V Genco Picardy in the Gulf of Aden.

Genco Shipping confirms Houthi attack on supramax in Gulf of Aden. Eric Priante Martin and Dale Wainwright. TradeWinds. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/genco-shipping-confirms-houthi-attack-on-supramax-in-gulf-of-aden/2-1-1584932 Genco Shipping & Trading has confirmed that one of its supramax bulkers has been hit by an “unidentified projectile” while transiting the Gulf of Aden.

Dramatic images show devastation being wrought on shipping from Houthis attacks.


Trawler crashed on rocks off after crew member fell asleep, boat's owner says. Associated Press 19 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/crew-asleep-fishing-trawler-aground-maine-fe40d0d4322456ce0fe1ffdf523bb5097 The four crew members aboard the Tara Lynn II were rescued. But the vessel was pummelled during a storm, as winds gusted to 50 mph (80 kph) and 6-foot (2-meter) waves crashed ashore.

Video: Two British Royal Navy ships involved in collision in Bahrain. Gulf News (UAE). 20 January 2024. Available from: https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/bahrain/video-two-british-royal-navy-ships-involved-in-collision-in-bahrain-1.1705769536417 No one was injured in the accident which occurred in Bahrain Harbour on Friday, it said. An investigation into the incident has been opened.

CENTCOM Status Update on Missing Navy SEALs. US Central Command. 21 January 2024. Available from: https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3651310/centcom-status-update-on-missing-navy-seals/ We regret to announce that after a 10-day exhaustive search, our two missing U.S. Navy SEALs have not been located and their status has been changed to deceased.


Trafigura-operated tanker battling fire in Gulf of Aden after Houthi missile attack.


Update on Marlin Luanda – 12:00 GMT - Trafigura confirms all crew are safe and fire is extinguished. Trafigura. 27 January 2024. Available from: https://www.trafigura.com/news-and-insights/responses/statement-re-marlin-.luanda/ We are pleased to confirm that all crew on board the Marlin Luanda are safe and the fire in the cargo tank has been fully extinguished.


Dramatic pictures show fire on JP Morgan tanker hit by Houthi missile. Andy Pierce, Yannick Guerry and Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 28 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/dramatic-pictures-show-fire-on-jp-morgan-tanker-hit-by-houthi-missile/2-1-1599656 The first images have emerged of a dramatic fire on a tanker, owned by investors connected to US banking giant JP Morgan, which was hit by a Houthi missile on Friday.
**ENVIRONMENT**


**Copernicus: 2023 is the hottest year on record, with global temperatures close to the 1.5°C limit.** *Copernicus Climate Change Service.* 9 January 2024. Available from: [https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2023-hottest-year-record](https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2023-hottest-year-record) The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission with funding from the EU, monitored several key climate indicators throughout the year, reporting on record-breaking conditions such as the hottest month on record and daily global temperature averages briefly surpassing pre-industrial levels by more than 2°C.


**The oceans are talking to us, and it’s not a pleasant conversation.** Nicole Mortillaro. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).* 18 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/ocean-warming-signals-1.7086410](https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/ocean-warming-signals-1.7086410) By now, most people are well aware that 2023 was the hottest year on record, coming in at 1.48 C warmer than the pre-industrial average from 1850-1900.

**The Climate Impact of Avoiding the Panama and Suez Canals.** Aryn Baker and Joey Lautrup. *Time.* 20 January 2024. Available from: [https://time.com/collection/time-co2-futures/6556409/panama-suez-canal-climate-impact/](https://time.com/collection/time-co2-futures/6556409/panama-suez-canal-climate-impact/) For a preview of what a hotter, more geopolitically unstable future might look like, you don’t have to go much further than the world’s shipping lanes—the daily commute for most of our consumer goods, from solar panels to electric car batteries, refrigerators and sneakers.

**Biodiversity: What is it and how can we protect it?** *UN News.* 22 January 2024. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145772](https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145772) The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) describes it as “the diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems, including plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi”.


Global warming was primary cause of unprecedented Amazon drought, study finds.

Human-induced global warming, and not El Niño, was the primary driver of last year’s severe drought in the Amazon that sent rivers to record lows, required deliveries of food and drinking water to hundreds of river communities and killed dozens of endangered dolphins, researchers said Wednesday.


From a high altitude overlooking Tong’an Bay in Xiamen, East China’s Fujian Province, patches of greenery are embedded like emeralds in the azure sea on both sides of the bay’s top bridge.

WMO confirms verification of new continental European temperature record.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has officially confirmed a new record temperature for continental Europe of 48.8°C (119.8°F) in Italy on 11 August 2021.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**


Countless tiny plastic pellets are washing up on the shores of northern Spain and local authorities declared an environmental emergency on Tuesday after a shipping container fell off a transport vessel last month.


Officials in northern Spain have issued alerts after millions of tiny plastic pellets spilled by a cargo ship off Portugal last month washed up on beaches, raising fears of environmental damage and triggering a political row.


Millions of tiny plastic pellets are washing up on the shores of northern Spain prompting local authorities to declare an environmental emergency.

Azerbaijan reduces sulphur in fuel used to prevent toxic gas emissions from ships.

Azerbaijan has reduced the share of sulphur in fuel used to prevent toxic gas emissions from ships by 6%, Azernews reports, citing ASCO.


ITOPF maintains a database of oil spills from tank vessels, including combined carriers, FPSOs and barges.


Cape diversions see shipping emissions soar. Sam Chambers. *Splash247.com*. 22 January 2024. Available from: [https://splash247.com/cape-diversions-see-shipping-emissions-soar/](https://splash247.com/cape-diversions-see-shipping-emissions-soar/) The extraordinary redrawing of the seaborne trading map between Asia and Europe over the past couple of months since the Houthis intervened in the ongoing war in Gaza is having a deleterious effect on shipping’s carbon footprint with one new report suggesting shippers might experience a more than five-fold increase in CO2 emissions per container shipped.


*Deepwater Horizon* oil spill study could lead to overhaul of cleanup processes worldwide. Sabine Matallana-Surget and Wade Jeffrey. *University of Stirling (UK)*. 22 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.stir.ac.uk/news/2024/january-2024-news/deepwater-horizon-oil-spill-study-could-lead-to-overhaul-of-cleanup-processes-worldwide/](https://www.stir.ac.uk/news/2024/january-2024-news/deepwater-horizon-oil-spill-study-could-lead-to-overhaul-of-cleanup-processes-worldwide/) The innovative study led by researcher Dr Sabine Matallana-Surget and Dr Wade Jeffrey of the University of West Florida assessed the impact of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill on microscopic seawater bacteria that perform a significant role in ecosystem functioning.
To curb plastic pollution, industry and academia must unite. Collin P. Ward, Christopher M. Reddy, Brian Edwards and Steven T. Perri. *Nature.* 22 January 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00155-z From the top of Mount Everest to the deepest ocean trench, pieces of plastic are found almost everywhere on Earth.


**HEALTH & SAFETY**

Seafarers encounter growing mental health struggles as drone attacks and pirate threats escalate in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 5 January 2024. Available from: http://tinyurl.com/ybx93c59 Seafarers once again find themselves on the frontline of one of the world’s conflicts as they pass through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, with potential attacks coming by both air and sea; all on top of an escalation of the risk already posed by pirates.


**Not-for-profit company established for maritime mental health.** Sam Chambers. *Splash 247.com.* 24 January 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/not-for-profit-company-established-for-maritime-mental-health/ To meet the growing awareness of the importance of protecting mental health in the maritime industry, consultant clinical psychologist Dr Pennie Blackburn has launched Waypoint Maritime, a community interest company with profits reinvested to further its social objectives.
The Lloyd’s List Podcast: What’s keeping the new IMO secretary-general awake at night?
Lloyd’s List. 1 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1147704/ The new IMO secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez joins the Lloyd’s List Podcast this week to discuss the challenges ahead, leadership and just how much influence the SG really has in setting the industry’s agenda.

‘Bring it on’: IMO’s new head prepares to tackle rifts, wars and shipping’s green mission.
Paul Peachey. TradeWinds. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/interviews/-bring-it-onimo-s-new-head-prepares-to-tackle-rifts-wars-and-shipping-s-green-mission-2-1-1575141 The new head of shipping’s global regulator has pledged to lead a more diverse, outward-looking and transparent organisation as he confronts the biggest upheaval in the industry for generations.


Unravelling IMO policy measures towards a just and equitable energy transition.


Inuit work towards greater voice in shipping as IMO meeting gets underway. Eilís Quinn. Radio Canada International (RCI). 23 January 2024. Available from: https://www.rcinet.ca/eye-on-the-arctic/2024/01/23/inuit-work-towards-greater-voice-in-shipping-as-imo-meeting-gets-underway As an IMO Sub-committee meeting on ship construction got underway in London on Monday, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) says it will continue to work towards Inuit having a greater voice in shipping.

Turkmenistan intends to join the international convention on facilitation of maritime navigation. *Azernews (Azerbaijan)*. 28 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.azernews.az/region/220946.html](https://www.azernews.az/region/220946.html) At the next meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, chaired by President Serdar Berdimuhamedov, the country’s accession to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic of the IMO was announced, Azernews reports citing Turkmenportal.


**LAW & POLICY**


A Joint Statement from the Governments of the United States, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. *The White House*. 2 January 2024. Available from: [http://tinyurl.com/4v333ppa](http://tinyurl.com/4v333ppa) Recognizing the broad consensus as expressed by 44 countries around the world on December 19, 2023, as well as the statement by the UN Security Council on December 1, 2023, condemning Houthi attacks against commercial vessels transiting the Red Sea, and in light of ongoing attacks, including a significant escalation over the past week targeting commercial vessels, with missiles, small boats, and attempted hijackings.


Joint WSC, BIMCO and ICS statement on Red Sea attacks. *World Shipping Council, BIMCO and International Chamber of Shipping*. 3 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/joint-wsc-bimco-and-ics-statement-on-red-sea-attacks/](https://www.ics-shipping.org/statement/joint-wsc-bimco-and-ics-statement-on-red-sea-attacks/) The World Shipping Council, the International Chamber of Shipping and BIMCO today expressed their thanks to the 12 nations that have jointly condemned the ongoing illegal attacks on ships in the Red Sea and unlawful detention of vessels and crews there.


Red Sea emergency hits consumers worldwide: UNCTAD. UN News. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://news.un.org/en/audio/2024/01/1145287 Houthi rebel attacks on ships using the Red Sea trade route off the coast of Yemen, are bad for global business and consumers everywhere but have also exposed a chronic shortage of vessels in the supply chain.

Gibraltar Begins to Sketch out Low-emission Future. Ship & Bunker. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://shipandbunker.com/news/emea/751868-gibraltar-begins-to-sketch-out-low-emission-future With the shipping decarbonisation debate primarily concerned with the fuels most likely to take sizeable market share from traditional fuel oil, how those fuels will be delivered is increasingly shifting the focus onto ports.


The Death of the 1.5 Degree Climate Target. Jun Arima and Vijaya Ramachandran. Foreign Policy. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/08/climate-target-degrees-warming-cop-emissions-resilience/ How many more U.N. climate conferences will it take for the world to admit that the current climate policy path is at a dead end?

The long shadow of the Red Sea shipping disruption. Alex Mills. Atlantic Council. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/econographics/the-long-shadow-of-the-red-sea-shipping-disruption/ More than 80 percent of international trade by volume is transported by sea, and as the current situation in the Red Sea illustrates, disruptions to shipping routes can have wide-reaching effects.
Attacks on cargo ships in the Red Sea threaten Australia’s trade – we need a Plan B.


U.S. Hits Houthi Targets in Yemen with Strike Fighters, Warships and Submarines.


Houthi rebels vow to continue threat against ships despite US-led attack. Daniel Logan Berg-Munch. *ShippingWatch.* 12 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16751457.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16751457.ece) Military forces from the US and UK have attacked more than 60 targets in Yemen on behalf of the international coalition to target the Houthi movement.


US and UK strike Houthi targets in Yemen after attacks on shipping in Red Sea. *France 24.* 12 January 2024. Available from: [https://youtu.be/oXFEqAGbm2s?si=UWEavtsnSdrUgfXc](https://youtu.be/oXFEqAGbm2s?si=UWEavtsnSdrUgfXc) President Joe Biden said Thursday that US and British forces had launched air strikes against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen in “defensive action” after attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.


Tanker seized by Iran carrying Turkish oil bought from Iraq. *MEHR News Agency (Iran).* 13 January 2024. Available from: [https://en.mehrnews.com/news/210726/Tanker-seized-by-Iran-carrying-Turkish-oil-bought-from-Iraq](https://en.mehrnews.com/news/210726/Tanker-seized-by-Iran-carrying-Turkish-oil-bought-from-Iraq) Turkey’s main oil refiner Tupras claims that a ship seized by Iran off the coast of Oman was laden with Turkish crude imported from Iraq.
Yemen’s Houthis threaten to hit US ships as more tankers steer clear.  
*Arab News (Saudi Arabia).* 14 January 2024. Available from: [https://arab.news/5dyvn](https://arab.news/5dyvn)  
Yemen’s Houthis will expand its targets in the Red Sea region to include US ships, an official from the Iran-allied group said on Monday, as it vowed to keep up attacks after US and British strikes on its sites in Yemen.

The US on Friday followed up Thursday night’s attacks on land-based strategic assets in Houthi-held Yemen, with an announcement from the US Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) that it would be hitting various entities with more sanctions.

The organising committee for the Cop29 global climate change summit in Azerbaijan in December comprises 28 men and no women, the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has announced.

The master of an unnamed vessel reported that two missiles were launched at the ship, with no damage reported.

The veteran climate envoys from the world’s two biggest polluters have stepped down in the same week, creating uncertainty at the top of international climate talks.

Attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea have recently intensified – and there doesn’t appear to be any sign of tensions easing just yet.

**Norway’s approval of sea-bed mining undermines efforts to protect the ocean.** *Nature.* 16 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00104-w](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00104-w)  
When Norway and Palau announced in 2018 that they were co-chairing the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (now called the Ocean Panel), many researchers were hopeful.

Five NGOs – Fossielvrij, Protect our Winters, Dryade, CLAW and Opportunity Green – have launched a legal challenge against the European Commission, requesting it to review its green investment rules on aviation and shipping.
LNG as shipping's alternative fuel in crosshairs again with European court challenge.

Fukushima Nuclear Waste Water Disputes Continued: International Law in Japanese Court?


U.S. Forces Strike Missile Sites in Yemen Following Houthi Attack on U.S. Commercial Ship.

Terrorist Designation of the Houthis.
US Department of State. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://www.state.gov/terrorist-designation-of-the-houthis/ The Department of State today is announcing the designation of Ansarallah, commonly referred to as the Houthis, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group, effective 30 days from today.

Norway’s controversial approval of deep-sea mining divides European Parliament.

Chile becomes first nation to approve ratification of historic UN Ocean Treaty.

The U.S. military fired another wave of ship-and submarine-launch missile strikes against Houthi-controlled sites Wednesday, U.S. Central Command said, marking the fourth time in days it has directly targeted the group in Yemen as violence that ignited in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war continues to spill over in the Middle East.


My Noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport (Lord Davies of Gower) has made the following ministerial statement.


The UN has called on countries to swiftly ratify the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) agreement, with 59 more to go after Chile this week became the first country to do so.


Turkish lawmakers have approved a presidential decree extending the mission of Turkish military naval elements in several maritime zones, including the Gulf of Aden, Somali territorial waters, the Arabian Sea and adjacent regions.


The recent Supreme Court ruling in Herculito Maritime Ltd v Gunvor International could have immediate significance for owners considering deviations from the Red Sea, according to an analysis from the barrister who led for the winning side.


The U.S. launched new strikes against Houthi anti-ship missiles aimed at the Red Sea on Thursday, as growing tensions in the region’s sea lanes disrupted global trade and raised fears of supply bottlenecks that could reignite inflation.


The president of Azerbaijan has added 12 women to the previously all-male organising committee for the Cop29 global climate summit, which the country will host in December.


The US and UK launched another major series of air strikes against Houthi targets on Monday in the latest bid to stem attacks against commercial shipping in the Red Sea.
Palau sparks marine protection optimism with high seas treaty ratification. *Carbon Pulse.* 23 January 2024. Available from: [https://carbon-pulse.com/253576/](https://carbon-pulse.com/253576/) The Pacific Island nation of Palau has ratified the UN’s Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) treaty, sparking optimism that sufficient momentum can build for the treaty to enter into force, making it possible for the global community to protect vast tracts of the world’s oceans.


EU countries agree on joint military operation in the Red Sea. *ShippingWatch.* 23 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16780630.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16780630.ece) EU member states have reached a principle agreement that there should be EU military operations in the Red Sea.


Maritime is ‘big business’ for Barbados – Humphrey. Barbados Today. 24 January 2024. Available from: https://barbadostoday.bb/2024/01/24/maritime-is-big-business-for-barbados-humphrey/ Maritime business is key to the country’s economic survival, the country’s first minister for the blue economy has declared.


Palau ratifies UN Ocean treaty - Paving the way for rest of world, Greenpeace says. Radio New Zealand. 25 January 2024. Available from: https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/507507/ The global environmental advocacy organisation, Greenpeace, has welcome Palau’s move to become the first nation in the world to officially ratify the UN Ocean Treaty.


US, UK sanction senior Houthis as rebels say Red Sea attacks will continue. Al Jazeera. 25 January 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/25/us-uk-sanction-senior-houthis-as-rebels-say-red-sea-attacks-will-continue The United States and United Kingdom have issued new sanctions on leaders of Yemen’s Houthis, as the group pledges to continue its attacks on Israel-linked commercial vessels until aid reaches Palestinians in Gaza.

£33 million boost to turn green ports and ships into a reality. UK Government. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/33-million-boost-to-turn-green-ports-and-ships-into-a-reality Maritime Minister, Lord Davies, has today (26 January 2024) announced the winners of £33 million of government funding to develop green technologies for ports and ships – accelerating the UK’s race to decarbonise the sector while supporting jobs in coastal communities across the country, helping grow the economy in the long term.

Today, the U.S. government, the world’s largest exporter of liquified natural gas (LNG), announced a pause on new LNG export approvals, citing climate and domestic cost-of-living concerns.


Iran has detained a product tanker and its crew of 14 Asian seafarers in a smuggling case.


A Commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Bushehr province, Brigadier General Heydar Honarian Mojarrad, told Mehr News Agency that the vessel, with the flag of an Oceanian country, was carrying 2 million liters of smuggled fuel.


The Houthis have arrested a judge in Sanaa, Yemen’s capital, most likely because of his posts on X, formally Twitter, criticizing Houthi actions in the Red Sea, Human Rights Watch said today.


The outlook for the global economy is brightening, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday as it upgraded its growth forecast for 2024.


The global economy begins the final descent toward a soft landing, with inflation declining steadily and growth holding up.


The European Union mission to protect commercial vessels against Iran-backed Houthi rebel attacks in the Red Sea could kick off in mid-February, EU officials said Wednesday.


**Shipping is sizing up energy transition opportunities.** *Lloyd’s Register.* 11 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/insights-articles/shipping-is-sizing-up-energy-transition-opportunities/](https://www.lr.org/en/knowledge/insights-articles/shipping-is-sizing-up-energy-transition-opportunities/) After a year in which decarbonisation regulations were agreed to be sharpened at both IMO and EU level, the maritime industry advanced significantly towards meeting its long-range emissions targets in 2023, according to LR’s analysis of vessel ordering, technology and fuel developments.


**Carbon carriage: Risks and opportunities.** Neil Henderson. *Gard.* 18 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36579099](https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36579099) Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a long-established technology but its profile has grown as a potentially significant solution to achieve rapid decarbonisation.

**LNG – Leading Maritime Decarbonisation.** *SEA-LNG.* 18 January 2024. Available from: [https://sea-lng.org/2024/01/lng-leading-maritime-decarbonisation/](https://sea-lng.org/2024/01/lng-leading-maritime-decarbonisation/) This year’s View from the Bridge 2023-2024 highlights how the shipping industry has advanced along the LNG pathway to decarbonisation in 2023 and outlines the progress anticipated in 2024. *Full Report.*

**Top 10 2023 News Story: Autonomous interest grows.** Bruce Buls. *WorkBoat.* 24 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.workboat.com/technology/top-10-2023-news-story-autonomous-interest-grows](https://www.workboat.com/technology/top-10-2023-news-story-autonomous-interest-grows) According to a white paper published in 2021 by the American Bureau of Shipping, the IMO has identified four degrees of vessel autonomy: (1) a ship with automated processes and decision support in which some operations may be automated and occasionally unsupervised but with seafarers on board ready to take control; (2) a remotely controlled ship with seafarers on board; (3) a remotely controlled ship without seafarers on board; and (4) a fully autonomous ship in which the vessel is able to make decisions and determine actions by itself.

**Veteran shipping economist says he doesn’t like green fuels.** Nidaa Bakhsh. *ShippingWatch.* 26 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/people/article16792841.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/people/article16792841.ece) Speaking to an audience at Marine Money in London, Stopford likened green fuels to instant coffee versus heavy fuel oil which is like the properly-brewed "lovely coffee" in what he calls the "barista theory".

**Carbon capture set to provide shipping with zero-carbon pathway and cargoes** David Hughes. *Business Times (Singapore).* 30 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/carbon-capture-set-provide-shipping-zero-carbon-pathway-and-cargoes](https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/carbon-capture-set-provide-shipping-zero-carbon-pathway-and-cargoes) It was not very long ago that the mention of carbon capture on board ships was met with raised eyebrows and polite incredulity.

**MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING**


**Anglo-Eastern expects to retrain 30,000 seafarers for green transition.** Tomas Kristiansen. *ShippingWatch.* 8 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16726073.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/suppliers/article16726073.ece) Even for those with many years of experience in handling heavy fuel or marine gas oil, it is an entirely different story when dealing with ships that are powered by liquefied natural gas, methanol and, above all, ammonia.


**Ministry hosts four-day oil pollution workshop.** Gregory Mc Burnie. *Newsday (Trinidad and Tobago).* 16 January 2024. Available from: [https://newsday.co.tt/2024/01/16/ministry-hosts-four-day-oil-pollution-workshop](https://newsday.co.tt/2024/01/16/ministry-hosts-four-day-oil-pollution-workshop) Given Trinidad and Tobago's status as an energy-producing nation whose greatest revenue comes from oil and gas, the Ministry of Works and Transport is hosting a workshop on oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation.

Would you Recommend a Life at Sea to Your Children? Tommy Olofsen. OSM Thome. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://osmithome.com/would-you-recommend-a-life-at-sea-to-your-children/ Tommy Olofsen, CCO and President at OSM Thome, recently moderated a panel discussion at the Crew Connect Global conference 2023 where panellists discussed shipping’s image problem, as compared to other industries, when trying to attract the younger generation.

DFDS launches new talent programme for female students. DFDS Group. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.dfds.com/en/about/media/news/dfds-launches-new-talent-programme-for-female-students The programme which is called “Waves of Talent” is designed to equip young individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills and hands-on experience to pursue a career as a Deck or Engine Officer in the maritime industry.

IMO’s Perspectives on Maritime Training. Marty Kauchak. Halldale Group. 31 January 2024. Available from: https://www.halldale.com/articles/22294 This is the second article on the accelerating pace of change in the naval and commercial maritime learning communities.

MARITIME SAFETY

Turkey says UK minehunters can’t be sent to Ukraine. Annabelle Dickson. POLITICO. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://www.politico.eu/article/turkey-uk-ships-cannot-be-sent-ukraine-while-war-on-nato/ Two British minehunter ships destined for Ukraine cannot travel through Turkish waters, Ankara stressed Tuesday, citing an international pact.


N. Korea fires some 200 artillery shots into West Sea. Park Sae-jin. Aju Daily (South Korea). 5 January 2024. Available from: https://www.ajudaily.com/view/20240105135736863 The shells landed just north of the Northern Limit Line, a maritime demarcation line in the West Sea that separates North Korea and South Korea.


North Korea fires intermediate-range ballistic missile, falls in sea. Kyodo News (Japan). 15 January 2024. Available from: https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2024/01/1e44aacbad35-urgent-n-korea-appears-to-have-fired-ballistic-missile-japan-govt.html North Korea fired what is believed to have been an intermediate-range ballistic missile toward the Sea of Japan on Sunday, marking its first such activity of the year and coming less than a month after it launched a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile, the South Korean military said.

Preliminary results of the CIC on Fire Safety. Black Sea MOU. 17 January 2024. Available from: http://www.bs mou.org/ From 1 September 2023 to 30 November 2023, the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Black Sea Region (BS MoU) carried out a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Fire Safety. Full Press Release 🎥

N. Korea fires several cruise missiles from its east coast: JCS. Park Boram. Yonhap News Agency (South Korea). 28 January 2024. Available from: https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20240128000952315 North Korea fired several cruise missiles from its east coast on Sunday, the South Korean military said, days after Pyongyang test-fired new strategic cruise missiles from the west coast.

MARITIME SECURITY

Iran confirms deploying warship to Red Sea as tensions rise. Al Jazeera. 1 January 2024. Available from: https://youtu.be/J00SAun32nM?si=HAYWblEavB0NXCUe The IRIS Alborz, part of the 94th Naval Fleet of the Iranian army, travelled through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait near Yemen to arrive at the Red Sea.


The Tides of Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea. Peter Barto. International Relations Review. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://www.irreview.org/articles/the-tides-of-maritime-security Recognizing the significance of the maritime domain is crucial to understanding the global and regional dealings of coastal nations.

Explosions Near Maltese-Flagged Vessel in the Red Sea. Maritime Executive. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/explosions-near-maltese-flagged-vessel-in-the-red-sea The Houthis staged a late-day assault on an unidentified vessel near the Bab el-Mandeb in the Red Sea on January 2 with the authorities reporting that none of the nearby merchant ships were damaged.

Houthi drone boat detonates in Red Sea a day after US warning. Phil Stewart and Jonathan Landay. Reuters. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/houthi-drone-boat-detonates-red-sea-day-after-us-warning-2024-01-04/ A Houthi drone boat packed with explosives detonated in the Red Sea on Thursday but failed to cause any damage or casualties, the U.S. Navy said, as the Yemen-based group continued its attacks in defiance of international calls to stop.

Houthis launch sea drone to attack ships hours after US, allies issue final warning. Tara Copp. Associated Press. 5 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/houthis-drone-ships-navy-missile-79aca676da82a61ce4a8151951727973. An armed unmanned surface vessel launched from Houthis-controlled Yemen got within a "couple of miles" of U.S. Navy and commercial vessels in the Red Sea before detonating on Thursday, just hours after the White House and a host of partner nations issued a final warning to the Iran-backed militia group to cease the attacks or face potential military action.


US CENTCOM Statement on 26th Houthi attack on commercial shipping lanes in the Red Sea.
US Central Command. 9 January 2024. Available from: https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/STATEMENTS/Statements-View/Article/3639970/us-centcom-statement-on-26th-houthi-attack-on-commercial-shipping-lanes-in-the/ On Jan. 9, at approximately 9:15 p.m. (Sanaa time), Iranian-backed Houthis launched a complex attack of Iranian designed one-way attack UAVs (OWA UAVs), anti-ship cruise missiles, and an anti-ship ballistic missile from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Southern Red Sea, towards international shipping lanes where dozens of merchant vessels were transiting.

HMS Richmond heads to Gulf to support Diamond and Lancaster safeguard shipping.

US, UK forces shoot down 21 drones and missiles fired by Houthis.
Al Jazeera. 10 January 2024. Available from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/10/us-uk-forces-shoot-down-21-drones-and-missiles-fired-by-houthis The United States military’s Central Command (CENTCOM) has said it shot down 18 drones launched by Yemen’s Houthi rebels over the southern Red Sea, the armed group’s 26th attack on international shipping lanes in the last seven weeks.

The murky waters of maritime cybersecurity.
Carly Fields. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). 11 January 2024. Available from: https://www.imarest.org/resource/the-murky-waters-of-maritime-cybersecurity.html In an increasingly digital world where data is a precious commodity, no industry is safe from the lurking threats of cyberattacks, including the maritime sector.

The Lloyd’s List Podcast: Red Sea risk explained.
Lloyd’s List. 12 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1147925/The-Lloyds-List-Podcast-Red-Sea-risk-explained As the missiles fly and ships divert, the Lloyd’s List team are joined by industry experts to offer expert views on how the events in the Red Sea are going to be shaping shipping markets and risk assessments globally over the coming days and weeks.

US Advises Key Red Sea Trade Route Still Too Risky for Ships: Trade Group.

Latest Houthi attack shows Red Sea remains unsafe.

Allianz Risk Barometer 2024: Cyber incidents keep gaining ground.
Safety4Sea. 16 January 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/allianz-risk-barometer-2024-cyber-incidents-keep-gaining-ground/ Cyber incidents such as ransomware attacks, data breaches, and IT disruptions are the biggest worry for companies globally in 2024 (36% of responses), according to the Allianz Risk Barometer 2024.
Red Sea shipping is now divided down lines of risk appetite and national security.
Bridget Diakun and Richard Meade. *Lloyd’s List*. 19 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1147985/ While containerships have been diverting away from the Suez Canal since mid-December, tankers and bulkers have finally made the call to follow them as US and UK air strikes against the Houthis failed to stem attacks and insurance rates spiked in response.


Houthi Hit on Russian Fuel Has Oil Traders Recalculating Risks. Alaric Nightingale. *Bloomberg*. 28 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/houthi-hit-on-russian-fuel-has-oil-traders-recalculating-risks-1.2027498 A missile attack on Friday on a tanker taking Russian fuel through the Gulf of Aden may prove to be a defining moment for an oil market that had previously been somewhat immune to months of Houthi militants’ attacks on merchant trade.
Yemen’s Huthi rebels open seized cargo ship to sightseers. Agence France-Presse (AFP). 30 January 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHnnrXnYL9Y More than two months after Yemen’s Huthi rebels captured the Galaxy Leader cargo ship and detained its 25 crew, the Iran-backed rebels have turned the vessel into a domestic “tourist attraction”.

Yemen’s Houthi rebels open seized cargo ship to sightseers. Amanda Mouawad. Al-Monitor. 28 January 2024. Available from: https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/01/yemens-houthi-rebels-open-seized-cargo-ship-sightseers More than two months after Yemen’s Huthi rebels captured the Galaxy Leader cargo ship and detained its crew, the Iran-backed rebels have turned the vessel into a domestic “tourist attraction”.

MIGRANTS


Five migrants die trying to cross English Channel in boat. Adam Durbin and Simon Jones. BBC News. 15 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67973718 Five migrants trying to cross the Channel have died in French waters, a French maritime official told the BBC.


IOM Chief: Nearly 100 Disappeared or Dead in Mediterranean in 2024 Underscoring Need for Regular Pathways. *International Organization for Migration (IOM)*. 29 January 2024. Available from: https://www.iom.int/news/iom-chief-nearly-100-disappeared-or-dead-mediterranean-2024-underscoring-need-regular-pathways. The IOM has revealed today that nearly 100 people have died or disappeared in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean since the beginning of 2024.


**NAVIGATION & COMMUNICATIONS**

Maersk sailings paused through Suez after attack - new report pending. *ShippingWatch*. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16722137.ece. After the weekend attack on one of Maersk’s container ships in the Red Sea the shipping company is now putting more ships on standby.


**Houthis want Red Sea ships to report destinations to avoid attack.** Saeed Al-Batati. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia).* 7 January 2024. Available from: [https://arab.news/7nkV3](https://arab.news/7nkV3) Yemen’s Houthi militia on Sunday called for all vessels planning to transit the Red Sea to notify them in advance of their destinations and declare no connections to Israel to avoid being attacked.

**Drewry Freight Loop - Red Sea Crisis: Impact assessment.** *Drewry Shipping Consultants.* 7 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvQIUQdNzE&ab_channel=DrewryShippingConsultants](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvQIUQdNzE&ab_channel=DrewryShippingConsultants) The next 4-5 weeks will be critical for global shipping and container traffic from Asia to Europe and Mediterranean to Asia.


**Russia’s growing dark fleet: Risks for the global maritime order.** Elisabeth Braw. *Atlantic Council.* 11 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/russias-growing-dark-fleet-risks-for-the-global-maritime-order/](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/russias-growing-dark-fleet-risks-for-the-global-maritime-order/) Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the dark fleet of old vessels that lack proper insurance, have opaque ownership, and “flag hop” between different permissive registries has grown explosively, to an estimated 1,400 ships.


**Houthis attacks on ships disrupt global trade.** Dirk Kaufmann. *Deutsche Welle (Germany).* 13 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.dw.com/en/houthi-attacks-on-ships-disrupt-global-trade/a-67967525](https://www.dw.com/en/houthi-attacks-on-ships-disrupt-global-trade/a-67967525) Houthi rebels on the Arabian Peninsula, supported by Iran, have been attacking cargo ships on the Red Sea since Israel launched its military operation in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip in October.


Larger shipping companies will continue to avoid Red Sea despite airstrikes, says analyst. CNBC (US). 15 January 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/video/2024/01/15/larger-shipping-companies-will-continue-to-avoid-red-sea-despite-airstrikes-says-analyst.html Peter Sand, chief analyst at Xeneta, discusses the U.S. and UK airstrikes on Houthi targets and the impact this will have on shipping companies in the Red Sea.

Ships keep running Red Sea gauntlet even after US warnings. Al Arabiya. 16 January 2024. Available from: https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2024/01/16/Ships-keep-running-Red-Sea-gauntlet-even-after-US-warnings Huge numbers of merchant ships have continued to navigate the southern Red Sea since warnings by western navies to stay away from the crucial trade route to avoid attack by Houthi militants.


Red Sea ships declare lack of ties to Israel online to avert Houthi attacks. Saeed Al-Batati. *Arab News (Saudi Arabia)*. 20 January 2024. Available from: https://arab.news/js3ey Shipping operators are reportedly posting statements on marine monitoring websites declaring that they have no connection to Israel before entering the Red Sea to avoid their vessels being targeted by the Houthi militia in Yemen.

Tracking Houthi attacks in the Red Sea. Joshua Cheetham, Tom Spencer and Shruti Menon. *BBC News*. 20 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-68031732 In recent weeks the dangers for shipping in the Red Sea region have increased dramatically, as Iranian-backed Houthi fighters have targeted commercial shipping with drone and missile attacks, as well as more brazen assaults by boat and helicopter.


CMA CGM continues to run Red Sea gauntlet. James Baker. *Lloyd’s List*. 22 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148021/CMA-CGM-continues-to-run-Red-Sea-gauntlet Despite rerouting several of its vessels around the Cape of Good Hope to avoid the area, the French carrier has been the only one of the major global carriers to continue to use the Suez Canal routing.


Red Sea Attacks Push BHP to Divert Some Bulk Shipments Around Africa. Clara Denina, Florance Tan, Chandni Shah, Sameer Manekar and Swati Verma. gCaptain. 25 January 2024. Available from: https://gcaptain.com/red-sea-attacks-push-bhp-to-divert-some-bulk-shipments-around-africa/ Australian mining giant BHP Group said on Thursday that the Red Sea disruptions are forcing some of its freight service providers to take alternative routes, such as Africa’s Cape of Good Hope, while others still prefer the Red Sea with additional controls.

Saudi Aramco Keeps Sending Oil Through Houthi-Menaced Red Sea. Matthew Martin and Anthony Di Paola. Bloomberg. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/saudi-aramco-keeps-sending-oil-through-houthi-menaced-red-sea-1.2026808 Saudi Aramco, the world’s largest oil company, is continuing to send tanker loads of crude and fuels through the southern Red Sea, where Houthi militants have for months been menacing merchant ships in response to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The Alliance suspends Asia – Red Sea service over security threat. Marcus Hand. Seatrade Maritime News. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/alliance-suspends-asia-red-sea-service-over-security-threat “We regret to inform you that, due to recent security developments around the Red Sea, the AR1 service will be temporarily suspended until further notice.”


Maximising situational awareness in pilotage. Paul Stanley. Nautilus International. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.nautinst.org/resources-page/free-article-maximising-situational-awareness-in-pilotage.html Some incidents which have involved loss of situational awareness at night are very well-known, such as: CMA CGM Vasco de Gama, a 399 metre container ship, which grounded while turning into Southampton water at night.

Shipping industry crisis: Attacks in red sea force vessels to reroute Al Jazeera. 30 January 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyfCtNYCz9c&ab_channel=AJazeeraEnglish Chinese officials are reported to have urged Iran to help prevent Houthi attacks on ships in the Red Sea, or risk harming business relations with Beijing.

PIRACY

Ongoing Incident: Bulker Boarded off Somalia. Maritime Executive. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://maritime-executive.com/article/ongoing-incident-bulker-boarded-off-somalia In a still developing situation, an identified merchant vessel is reporting that it has been boarded in the Arabian Sea between Somalia and Yemen.


Concerns over the re-emergence of Somali piracy. Nick Savvides. Seatrade Maritime News. 10 January 2024. Available from: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/piracy/concerns-over-re-emergence-somali-piracy Ominous signs of activity from Somali pirates, who it was thought had been suppressed by the agreement reached in 2009 known as the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) which led to the creation of an international task force to prevent pirate attacks.

Masked gang board Greek-owned tanker between Iran and Oman. Gary Dixon and Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 11 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/masked-gang-board-greek-owned-tanker-between-iran-and-oman/2-1-1581884 The 158,600-dwt St Nikolas (built 2011), formerly the Suez Rajan, was seized on Thursday morning by four to five unauthorised armed personnel, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).

Iran’s navy seizes oil tanker in Gulf of Oman that was at the center of a major US-Iran crisis. Jon Gambrell. Associated Press. 11 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/persian-gulf-oman-strait-hormuz-3a906e909be2ce63c87c1b208ed05bca Iran’s navy captured an oil tanker Thursday in the Gulf of Oman that only months earlier had seen its cargo of Iranian oil seized by the United States over sanctions linked to Tehran’s nuclear program, further escalating the tensions gripping the Mideast’s waterways.


Piracy at sea is waning - but hotspots remain. Freda Kreier. Nature. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00124-6 Pirate attacks on the high seas are on the decline - and have been for around a decade - according to researchers who analysed thousands of attacks worldwide over a 15-year period.
Somali pirates are back in action. A strong global response is needed. Christian Bueger. Safe Seas. 19 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.safeseas.net/piracy-2024/](https://www.safeseas.net/piracy-2024/) With the military escalation in the Red Sea caused by the Houthi attacks on merchant vessels and ongoing coercion by Iran, the Western Indian Ocean seems further away than ever from its self-declared goal to be a region of peace and prosperity.

**Indian Ocean piracy resurfaces.** David Hughes. Business Times (Singapore). 23 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/indian-ocean-piracy-resurfaces](https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/international/indian-ocean-piracy-resurfaces) Just as shipping finds itself caught up in geopolitics and under attack in the approaches to the Red Sea, a piracy threat in much the same area has re-emerged after a six-year hiatus.


**Pirates switch focus from ships to fishing boats in the Indian Ocean.** Harry Papachristou. TradeWinds. 29 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/news/2-piracy-groups-on-the-prowl-in-indian-ocean-warns-ukmto/2-1-1591070](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/news/2-piracy-groups-on-the-prowl-in-indian-ocean-warns-ukmto/2-1-1591070) Pirates prowling around the Indian Ocean seem to be turning their attention to smaller fishing boats — for ransom or possibly to use them as mother ships for attacks on larger commercial ships.


PORT STATE CONTROL


PORTS & HARBOURS


Saving the Panama Canal Will Take Years and Cost Billions, If It's Even Possible. Peter Millard and Michael D. McDonald. *Bloomberg.* 2 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/saving-the-panama-canal-will-take-years-and-cost-billions-if-it-s-even-possible-1.2017267](https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/saving-the-panama-canal-will-take-years-and-cost-billions-if-it-s-even-possible-1.2017267) The vestiges of an ancient forest tell the story of just how bad things are at the drought-stricken Panama Canal.


Egyptian PM discuss with Maersk officials Houthi Red Sea attacks’ impact on Suez Canal. *Ahram Online (Egypt)*. 10 January 2024. Available from: [https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/515466/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egyptian-PM-discuss-with-Maersk-officials-Houthi-R.aspx](https://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/1234/515466/Egypt/Foreign-Affairs/Egyptian-PM-discuss-with-Maersk-officials-Houthi-R.aspx) Egypt’s Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly discussed the impact of Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea on the Suez Canal with Maersk Group officials, including CEO Vincent Clerc, during a video-conference on Wednesday, the Egyptian Cabinet announced.

Tremors from Red Sea conflict start to shake Canada, with dozens of ships delayed.

The Panama Canal Is Running Dry. Mie Hoejris Dahl. Foreign Policy. 15 January 2024. Available from: https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/15/panama-suez-canal-global-shipping-crisis-climate-change-drought/. For months, a withering drought has created major traffic jams at the Panama Canal. The drought, which may have been exacerbated by climate change, has left the canal’s water levels lower than ever, forcing Panama to let fewer ships through.


Panama Canal traffic cut by more than a third because of drought. Associated Press. 19 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/panama-canal-global-trade-routes-drought-climate-change-bd76a77825a2e8e751a24346f8fd54a9. A severe drought that began last year has forced authorities to slash ship crossings by 36% in the Panama Canal, one of the world’s most important trade routes.

Adm. Rabiee Emphasizes the Readiness of The SCA’s Shipyards and Affiliated Companies to Handle Breakdowns and Emergencies That Canal-Transiting Vessels May Encounter. Suez Canal Authority (SCA). 22 January 2024. Available from: https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/MediaCenter/News/Pages/sca-22-1-2024.aspx. Admiral Ossama Rabiee, Chairman and Managing Director of the Suez Canal Authority, has announced the Authority’s readiness to cooperate with its client shipping lines and shipping agencies to minimize the impact of the current situation in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab through providing all the necessary navigational services, maintenance, and repair services the transiting vessels may need in case of breakdowns or emergencies.


EU launches alliance to tackle drug trafficking through European ports. *Euronews.* 25 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AayQ-TH2rZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AayQ-TH2rZY) Last year saw a huge increase in drug seizures in several European ports, with gangs exploiting security weaknesses.


REGULATIONS

Minister of Transport announces modernized vessel construction and equipment regulations. Government of Canada. 3 January 2024. Available from: http://tinyurl.com/4dfmrr8h The safety and security of Canada’s marine transportation system is a top priority for Transport Canada.

EU ETS: important compliance clarifications. Cindy Ko and Louis Shepherd. Gard. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://www.gard.no/web/articles?documentId=36511086 Launched in 2005, the EU’s Emission Trading System is a “cap and trade” scheme where carbon emitters in certain sectors have to purchase allowances to cover their emissions during the relevant trading period.


Small carriers could be forced into bankruptcy by new EU carbon quotas. ShippingWatch. 15 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16757825.ece On Jan. 1, shipping companies calling at European ports became subject to the EU’s climate rules and its CO2 quota system - the so-called EU ETS.


‘Inadvisable’ to use CII during review period, say top flag states and industry groups. Enes Tunagur. Lloyd’s List. 16 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1147950/Inadvisable-to-use-CII-during-review-period-say-top-flag-states-and-industry-groups It is “inadvisable” to use the IMO’s Carbon Intensity Indicator during its review through to 2026, according to a formal submission by member states Bahamas and Liberia along with industry groups.

Italy’s regulations on charities keep migrant rescue ships from the Mediterranean. Paolo Santalucia. Associated Press. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://apnews.com/article/italy-migration-rescue-ships-meloni-2d3137cb7a88aff6c169d52d1ea830e The year has gotten off to a slow start for a rescue ship that typically plies the Mediterranean Sea looking for migrants and refugees in distress.


**SALVAGE**


Maritime welfare charities form a unique collaboration to raise awareness. Mission to Seafarers. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news/maritime-welfare-charities-form-a-unique-collaboration-to-raise-awareness Praise has been given to The Mission alongside three other maritime charities, who, through their unique collaboration, have been able to highlight the key importance of seafarer wellbeing in a sustainable, safe, and diverse maritime future.

6 Pinoy seafarers safe after attempted hijacking of ship in North Arabia Sea. CNN Philippines. 6 January 2024. Available from: https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2024/1/6/6-Pinoy-seafarers-safe-after-attempted-hijacking.html The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Saturday confirmed the safety of six Filipino crew members on board the MV Lila Norfolk after an attempted hijacking in the North Arabia Sea.


17 Filipino seafarers ‘treated well, in good health’ while in captivity in Red Sea: DFA. Katrina Domingo. ABS-CBN (Philippines). 8 January 2024. Available from: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/08/24/filipino-seafarers-treated-well-while-in-captivity-in-red-sea-dfa The 17 Filipino seafarers who were taken hostage by Houthi rebels are being “treated well and are in good health,” the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Monday, about a month and a half since the overseas workers’ ship was seized in the Red Sea.

Chief exec says small operators offer the worst conditions for seafarers. Jens Thomsen. ShippingWatch. 11 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article16700827.ece A myriad of small operators cutting every expense makes dry bulk the shipping segment in which seafarers typically have the worst working conditions.

Saudi Ports Authority partners with Marasi to establish Seafarers Club. *Arab News.* 15 January 2024. Available from: [https://arab.news/zp435](https://arab.news/zp435) The Saudi Ports Authority, also known as Mawani, has signed a deal with Marasi Marine Services Co. to establish Seafarers Club at Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam and Ras Tanura Port.


*St Nikolas* oil tanker crew members are in good health. *Ekathimerini (Greece).* 14 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1229222/st-nikolas-oil-tanker-crew-members-are-in-good-health/](https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/1229222/st-nikolas-oil-tanker-crew-members-are-in-good-health/) All crew members of the Greek-owned oil tanker *St Nikolas,* which was seized on Thursday by the Iranian navy, anchored in Bandar Abbas, Iran, are reported to be in good health and safe, as was announced by the vessel’s management company Empire Navigation.

Will seafarers be on the agenda? Carolyn Graham. *Splash 247.com.* 17 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.splash247.com/will-seafarers-be-on-the-agenda/](https://www.splash247.com/will-seafarers-be-on-the-agenda/) Although the IMO is a secretariat, it does contribute to the agenda setting of the industry, which I have come to observe, seems to reflect the leadership.


Operators hit back at criticism of working conditions for seafarers. Liv Almer and Jens Thomsen. *ShippingWatch*. 25 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article16790443.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/Bulk/article16790443.ece) Recent criticism levelled at operators for offering the worst working conditions for seafarers is completely off the mark, say two prominent players in the field.


The missing ingredient for those working onboard. Steven Jones. *Splash 247.com*. 30 January 2024. Available from: [https://splash247.com/the-missing-ingredient-for-those-working-onboard](https://splash247.com/the-missing-ingredient-for-those-working-onboard) Steven Jones, founder of the Seafarers Happiness Index, channels Aretha Franklin to make his point about declining levels of contentedness across the world’s oceans.
Shipping company prefers seafarers from multiple countries: “The more you mix them, the happier the ship is”. Jens Thomsen. ShippingWatch. 30 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16702293.ece The composition of seafarers can determine the working climate on a ship, and the more multinational the crew, the more satisfied employees are with the working conditions on board.


SEARCH & RESCUE


Turkish crew members rescued after collision off Shanghai. Hürriyet Daily News (Türkiye). 24 January 2024. Available from: https://www.hurriyetedailynews.com/turkish-crew-members-rescued-after-collision-off-shanghai-190004 Sixteen Turkish crew members were rescued after their Marshall-flagged ship collided with another vessel and sank off China’s Shanghai, the Turkish maritime authorities have announced.

LR approves Canadian recycling facility in line with Hong Kong recycling convention. Lloyd’s Register. 4 January 2024. Available from: http://tinyurl.com/dpt89mhf Lloyd’s Register (LR) has certified Nova Scotia recycling facility, R.J. MacIsaac Ltd. (RJMI), according to the requirements of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (Hong Kong Convention).

Is Bangladesh’s shipbreaking industry sustainable? Mohammed Tarek Uzzaman. Business Standard (Bangladesh). 7 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/bangladeshs-shipbreaking-industry-sustainable-770934 Recently, a mega forum on ship recycling was organised in Singapore by TradeWinds, the world's biggest shipping news service.

Ship-breaking industry comes to near standstill. *Financial Express (Bangladesh).*

Pakistan’s unsafe shipbreaking yard claims lives of two workers. *IndustriALL Global Union.*


29 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/shipyards/red-sea-crisis-hits-ship-recycling-market](https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/shipyards/red-sea-crisis-hits-ship-recycling-market) This has come at a time when many had expected the dry bulk and container sectors to ease as deliveries keep coming and Chinese New Year approaches next month, GMS, the world’s largest buyer of end-of-life ships, said in its latest report on the recycling market.

**SHIPBUILDING & SHIPREPAIR**

China’s first homegrown large cruise ship starts maiden voyage. *Xinhuanet (China).*
1 January 2024. Available from: [https://english.news.cn/20240101/623be1ede5b249c2ad195bbd45563b89/c.html](https://english.news.cn/20240101/623be1ede5b249c2ad195bbd45563b89/c.html) China’s first domestically-built large cruise ship, the *Adora Magic City*, left a port in Shanghai on Monday afternoon for its commercial maiden voyage, opening up a new chapter for the country’s shipbuilding and cruise industries.

Nearly half of last year’s orders are capable of sailing on alternative fuels. Mette Grube Condrup. *ShippingWatch.* 3 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16726373.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16726373.ece) 2023 marked the start of the green transition in shipping, with new regulations coming into force and the IMO agreeing to a net-zero commitment.

Isle of Man Ship Registry (IOMSR) welcomes world’s most powerful sailing cargo ship to its fleet. *Hellenic Shipping News.* 4 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/isle-of-man-ship-registry-iomsr-welcomes-worlds-most-powerful-sailing-cargo-ship-to-its-fleet/](https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/isle-of-man-ship-registry-iomsr-welcomes-worlds-most-powerful-sailing-cargo-ship-to-its-fleet/) The pioneering *Berge Olympus* was officially unveiled in October after its retrofit by Berge Bulk, one of the world’s leading dry bulk ship owners.


Flex-fuel shipping: Designing and operating commercial ships to meet climate targets. John Steelman. Clean Air Task Force (CATF). 18 January 2024. Available from: https://www.catf.us/2024/01/flex-fuel-shipping-designing-operating-commercial-ships-meet-climate-targets/ Accounting for approximately 3% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the marine shipping industry is facing increasing pressure and requirements to reduce its emissions in line with the Paris Climate Agreement.


Kristian Agdrup explaining the design of our large methanol-enabled container vessels. *Maersk.* 22 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPy1nHq8IY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPy1nHq8IY). Kristian Agdrup, Lead Naval Architect at Maersk, talks us through the critical aspects of considering our new green methanol-powered vessel's operational environment and the pursuit of optimizing its design for better performance.


**SHIPPING**

Quintessentially British and symbolic of a nation steeped in maritime tradition, the 100th anniversary of the first broadcast of the Shipping Forecast should be celebrated as a key moment when safety became a priority at sea.

Container shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S said it will once again stop letting its vessels sail through the Red Sea, a vital trade corridor, after another of its carriers came under attack in the space of a few weeks.

The threat to global trade in the Red Sea remains high, even with efforts to protect commercial vessels from attacks by Iranian-backed Houthi militants based in Yemen.

**Beyond P&I cover: The need for a multimodal insurance option.** Peregrine Storrs-Fox. *Safety4Sea*. 2 January 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/beyond-p-and-i-cover-the-need-for-a-multimodal-insurance-option/ Not only did shipowners assume control, and therefore the liabilities associated with the containers themselves, but also extended the scope of their contractual responsibilities from the traditional 'ship’s rail' to the new concept of 'door to door'.

Recent attacks in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait on the *Maersk Hangzhou*, which saw US naval support sink three Houthi boats with the loss of ten lives, has led the Danish carrier to resume diversions around the African Cape.

The UN Security Council on Wednesday held its first open meeting on the continuing attacks by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, which are becoming an increasing threat to global trade and the stability of the entire region as the intense fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza continues.

The estimate from Clarksons Research comes in its latest Green Technology Tracker which monitors metrics including alternative fuel uptake and investment in energy saving technologies.

Copenhagen-based trade group Bimco has appointed Stinne Taiger Ivo as deputy secretary general — the first woman to take the post in the organisation’s history.
Ambitious research project addresses significant climate issue within the shipping industry. Sebastian Wittrock. University of Southern Denmark. 3 January 2024. Available from: https://www.sdu.dk/en/nyheder/mission. The formation of ships queuing outside ports is a widespread problem, leading to unnecessary fuel consumption and, consequently, CO2 emissions.


ECSA appoints its first female president. Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen. ShippingWatch. 4 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16730133.ece. Karin Orsel has been appointed new president of the European Shipping Association, also known as ECSA, as of Jan. 1 this year, ECSA states in a press release.

Houthi Attacks Disrupt Global Shipping. Voice of America. 5 January 2024. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgotlYNszPA&ab_channel=VoiceofAmerica. Denmark’s Maersk group said this week it would continue to pause all cargo shipments through the Red Sea following a weekend attack on one of its ship by Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen.


Singapore freighters anxious over Red Sea woes. Channel News Asia. 6 January 2024. Available from: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/watch/singapore-freighters-anxious-over-red-sea-woes-video-4029321. Singapore freighters are fretting over shipping rates via the Red Sea, which have more than doubled in the first week of the year.

Carriers are entering agreements with the Houthis to avoid attacks. Tomas Kristiansen and Sebastian Schlüter Jacobsen. ShippingWatch. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://shippingwatch.com/carriers/article16738006.ece. Following missile and drone attacks on ships sailing through the Red Sea in recent weeks, the first shipping lines have now reached agreements with the Houthis to allow unhindered passage through the vital waters.
Cosco to Stop Booking Ships Into Israel as Houthi Threats Spiral. Galit Altstein. Bloomberg. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/cosco-to-stop-booking-ships-into-israel-as-houthi-threats-spiral-1.2019087 Container shipping giant China Cosco Shipping Corp. is to stop delivering goods into Israel because of the threats and attacks that Houthi militants have made against vessels that sail there.

Shipping Shows Signs of Panic as Houthis Menace Key Trade Lane. Alex Longley and Anna Shiryaevskaya. Bloomberg. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/shipping-shows-signs-of-panic-as-houthis-menace-key-trade-lane-1.2019164 Container shipping is set to face a crunch ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday as Houthi attacks in the Red Sea lead to a surge in container shipping rates and prompt exporters to hold back on shipments.

India’s Exports May Take a $30 Billion Hit on Red Sea Threats. Shruti Srivastava. Bloomberg. 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/india-s-exports-may-take-a-30-billion-hit-on-red-sea-threats-1.2019096 India may see around $30 billion shaved off its total exports in the current fiscal year, as threats to cargo vessels in the Red Sea lead to a surge in container shipping rates and prompt exporters to hold back on shipments.


Climate change threatens Türkiye’s maritime transport, trade. Daily Sabah (Türkiye). 8 January 2024. Available from: https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/climate-change-threatens-turkiyes-maritime-transport-trade/news Istanbul and Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions Chamber of Shipping (IMEAK) head Tamer Kiran, highlighted the significant effects of climate change on the country’s maritime trade, emphasizing the ecological advantages of maritime transportation compared to other modes of transit.


Shipping costs rise by up to 250% due to Red Sea attacks. Fareed Rahman and Alvin R Cabral. The National (UAE). 9 January 2024. Available from: https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/2024/01/09/shipping-costs-have-risen-up-to-250-since-the-red-sea-attacks-began/ The cost of shipping goods through the Red Sea has surged since Yemen’s Houthi rebels began attacking commercial vessels in late November, and this continuing disruption may lead to higher inflation globally, industry analysts have said.


IBIA: Key priorities to shape the bunker industry’s future positively. Alexander Prokopakis. Safety4Sea. 10 January 2024. Available from: https://safety4sea.com/cm-ibia-key-priorities-to-shape-the-bunker-industries-future-positively/ As the new Executive Director of IBIA since September 2023, Alexander Prokopakis refers to key priorities on the agenda, highlighting that a multifaceted approach addressing technological, regulatory, and operational aspects as well as collaboration are vital for a more sustainable future.

New IMarEST CEO seeks seat at the table to shape shipping’s future. Craig Eason. TradeWinds. 10 January 2024. Available from: https://www.tradewindsnews.com/technology/new-imarest-ceo-seeks-seat-at-the-table-to-shape-shipping-s-future/2-1-1580569 Chris Goldsworthy has taken up the top job at IMarEST and wants his organisation to be seen and heard more in regulatory circles.


Shipping’s environmental priorities this year. Simon Bullock. Splash 247.com 11 January 2024. Available from: https://splash247.com/shipings-environmental-priorities-this-year/ 2023 was a year of savage and unrelenting climate disasters, further reinforcing the increasingly urgent need for far greater action to cut global greenhouse gas emissions.


Canals aren’t the world’s biggest shipping chokepoints. Tim Culpan. *Deccan Herald (India).* 15 January 2024. Available from: https://www.deccanherald.com/world/canals-arent-worlds-biggest-shipping-chokepoints-2849013 When traffic through the Suez Canal ground to a halt in 2021, the extraordinary cost and disruptions to global commerce seemed overwhelming.


Insurers Seek to Exclude US, UK Ships From Red Sea Coverage. Alex Longley and Áine Quinn. Bloomberg. 16 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/insurers-seek-to-exclude-us-uk-ships-from-red-sea-coverage-1.2022613 Some ship insurers are starting to avoid covering US and UK merchant ships against war risks when they navigate the southern Red Sea, another sign of blowback since the two nations’ airstrikes on Yemen last week.


Fears of prolonged Red Sea shipping crisis fuel inflation fears, as oil, retail cargo delays rise. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 17 January 2024. Available from: https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/17/what-a-prolonged-red-sea-crisis-means-for-inflation-and-world-economy.html The ripple effects of the Red Sea diversions have expanded into the energy markets and despite repeated attacks on Houthi rebels by the U.S. and allies, shipping experts say the crisis may linger for months and lead to a cargo container supply crunch.

Insurers shun many ships carrying goods through the Red Sea as attacks continue. Matt Egan. CNN. 17 January 2024. Available from: https://edition.cnn.com/2024/01/17/business/red-sea-shipping-attacks A growing number of insurers are refusing to cover American, British and Israeli vessels against war risks in the key commercial shipping corridor through the Red Sea as attacks from Houthi rebels continue.


Talking Business. Aaron Heslehurst. BBC News. 19 January 2024. Available from: https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001vk50/talking-business-19012024 Interview with Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General and Vincent Clerc, CEO, Maersk on the damage the Red Sea attacks are doing to the global economy and the resulting crisis for the global shipping industry.
Women in Green Shipping tee up group to go mainstream. Lucy Hine. *Trade Winds.* 19 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/women-in-green-shipping-tee-up-group-to-go-mainstream/2-1-1585988](https://www.tradewindsnews.com/sustainability/women-in-green-shipping-tee-up-group-to-go-mainstream/2-1-1585988) Industry group Women in Green Shipping, or WiGs as it is becoming widely and affectionately known, is gearing up to grow its presence and offer a forum for those working in the maritime sector with a focus on decarbonisation.

The Oil Market Is Making Plans for Red Sea Chaos to Last Weeks. Alex Longley, Sherry Su and Bill Lehane. *Bloomberg.* 20 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/the-oil-market-is-making-plans-for-red-sea-chaos-to-last-weeks-1.2024440](https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/the-oil-market-is-making-plans-for-red-sea-chaos-to-last-weeks-1.2024440) The oil market appears to be bracing for a weeks-long disruption to shipping in the southern Red Sea, where Houthi militants have for months been attacking merchant vessels in response to Israel's war in Gaza.


The Red Sea shipping crisis is having a ‘dramatic’ impact, warns logistics chief. *UN News.* 25 January 2024. Available from: [https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145902](https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145902) According to Jan Hoffmann, Chief of Trade Logistics at UNCTAD, the attacks are not only adding to geopolitical tensions but also raising costs and leading to increased greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.

SCA Chief: Situation in Red Sea may exacerbate CO2 emissions. *State Information Service (Egypt).* 25 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/191319/](https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/191319/) In his meeting with Secretary-General of the IMO Arsenio Dominguez on Thursday 25/1/2024 via video conference, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Admiral Ossama Rabie said that the current situation in the Red Sea region may exacerbate the harmful carbon emissions of vessels as they consume larger amounts of fuel when they take alternative routes.


Red Sea attacks disrupt grain shipping. Arvin Donley. *World Grain.* 25 January 2024. Available from: [https://www.world-grain.com/articles/19543](https://www.world-grain.com/articles/19543) The ongoing drone and missile attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea by Yemen-based Houthi rebels are starting to significantly impact dry bulk shipments, including grain, after being mainly limited to the container segment during the first stages of the crisis, an International Grains Council analyst told World Grain.

EU carbon quotas could give carriers an edge on the global stage. Mette Grube Condup. *ShippingWatch.* 26 January 2024. Available from: [https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16792556.ece](https://shippingwatch.com/regulation/article16792556.ece) Smaller shipping companies need not fear that the adjustment to the EU’s quota rules, ETS, will result in such high costs when they have to cover their CO2 emissions that it could push them into bankruptcy.

The huge cargo ships that criss-cross the world’s oceans sometimes leave “tracks” in their wake — long, wispy clouds that trail through the sky, lasting for a handful of days at most before disappearing.


The good, the bad and the ugly: the flagging standards of flag states. Lloyd’s List. 26 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148077/ The fact that a landlocked African state with no maritime administration, no links to the IMO and no commitment to the basic canon of international maritime law, can take it upon itself to start flagging ships, is of course entirely legal. Shifty Shades of Grey 🐸


Red Sea attacks strain Europe’s supply chains. Jeremy Van der Haegen. POLITICO. 29 January 2024. Available from: https://www.politico.eu/article/red-sea-attacks-strain-europes-supply-chains/ Cargo shipments between Asia and Europe are being disrupted by continued attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, and that’s starting to have an economic impact.


Hearing: Menace on the Red Sea: Securing Shipping Against Threats in the Red Sea. US House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. 30 January 2024. Available from: https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=407162 📀 I’d like to welcome our witnesses joining us today—Bud Darr, Executive Vice President, Maritime Policy and Government Affairs at MSC Group; Ian Ralby, CEO of I.R. Consilium; Jonathan Gold, Vice President of Supply Chain and Customs Policy, National Retail Federation; and David Heindel, President of the Seafarers International Union.

‘No shipping, no shopping’: Trade experts warn Congress what more Houthi Red Sea chaos will mean for economy. Lori Ann LaRocco. CNBC (US). 30 January 2024. Available from: http://tinyurl.com/2753yjn Dr. Ian Ralby, a maritime consultant, told Congress on Tuesday that the impact from Houthi attacks in the Red Sea will be ‘far greater’ on consumer prices than on the oil market.

The Lloyd’s List Podcast: What happened to supply chain resilience? Lloyd’s List. 30 January 2024. Available from: https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148106/ We may have all started off the year hoping that the Houthi threat was going to be a short-lived addition to the growing list of global trade disruptions, but four weeks into the year it’s looking like this is no temporary diversion.


RESEARCH


Pratson LF. Assessing impacts to maritime shipping from marine chokepoint closures. Communications in Transportation Research. 21 December 2023. Available from: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772424722000336 Global supply chain disruptions caused by the six-day blockage of the Suez Canal in March 2021 and the reduction in shipping through the Bosphorus Strait since the onset of the Ukraine War in February 2022 are recent demonstrations of the critical importance of marine chokepoints to international trade and thus global economic security.


Verschuur J, Salmon N, et al. Optimal fuel supply of green ammonia to decarbonise global shipping. Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability. 9 January 2024. Available from: https://dx.doi.org/10.1088/2634-4505/ad097a Green ammonia has been proposed as a technologically viable solution to decarbonise global shipping, yet there are conflicting ambitions for where global production, transport and fuelling infrastructure will be located.
Harden-Davies H, Lopes VF, et al. *First to finish, what comes next? Putting Capacity Building and the Transfer of Marine Technology under the BBNJ Agreement into practice*. *npj Ocean Sustainability*. 11 January 2024. Available from: https://www.nature.com/articles/s44183-023-00039-1#citeas The completion of negotiations on capacity building and the transfer of marine technology (CBTMT) was a critical milestone that paved the way for the adoption of a historic new UN ocean treaty that was twenty years in the making.


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About the cover

The CAB Cover is a photograph of the international memorial to the world’s seafarers, past, present and future which graces the entrance to IMO Headquarters in London. The memorial, a seven-metre high, ten-tonne bronze representation of the bow of a cargo ship with a lone seafarer on the deck, is the work of internationally renowned British sculptor Michael Sandle.